

Notes from Local Interest Group 25th November 2021

Present in Hall: Maureen Lloyd (ML), John Price, Wendy Ozols, David Price, Avryl and Roy Lloyd, Cherry Williams, Richard Thomas

On Zoom: Dainis Ozols, Bronwen Jenkins, Sylvia Illingsworth, Eva Morgan, Elsa Harflett, Antonia Salter

Apologies: Joan Lloyd, Ann and Howard Dean, Jenny Francis

Book Launch

For the first part of the meeting, we joined the Mortimer History Society for the launch of a book by Dr David Stephenson, of Bangor University. The book is called, **“Patronage and Power in the Medieval March: One Family’s Story”**. David was introduced by Philip Hume, Secretary of the Mortimer History Society. David gave us an outline of his book, which charts the history of the family of Hywel ap Meurig, who was from Gladestry. His was an upwardly mobile Welsh family which ultimately became very successful and influential in Wales and the March, and increasingly in England, over two centuries. The book is published by the University of Wales Press.

Film by Antonia Salter

The second item of the evening was a film made (and introduced for us) by Antonia Salter. Antonia is a freelance film-maker, specializing in nature and the outdoors. She has worked for many wildlife charities, making promotional videos. The film she showed us was made as part of her Masters in Wildlife Documentary Production, which she has recently been awarded (with distinction) by the University of Salford. The film focuses mostly on seabirds and the effects of global warming on marine ecosystems. It is entitled **“Living on the Edge”** and can be seen in its entirety using the following link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whA3kJtASg0>

Antonia then showed us another short film, entitled: **“The Colours of Autumn – Nature for Wellbeing”**. The link for this clip is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PimAW-Y7-9Q>

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed these two films, particularly the first which illustrated the complex relationships between the wildlife within and living above and beside the sea, and the effects that small changes within the ecosystem can have.

Radnorshire from Above

The final item of the evening was the showing of some excerpts from a presentation given by Dr Toby Driver of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. The excerpts were mainly of places in Radnorshire, such as Glaschw (Wern Camp), Builth Wells (Iron

Age hill forts), Castle Bank (with round house platforms), Castell Crugerydd (New Radnor), Painscastle (motte and bailey), Llandegley and Coed Swydd (pillow mounds) to name but a few.

Because the photographs in the lecture were all taken in winter, and with snow on the ground, the features are very easily seen in the landscape.

The extract we were shown came from a much longer film, entitled “**Above Frozen Wales: Aerial Archaeology & Exploration in a Welsh Winter with Dr Toby Driver**”. This can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBQxp2XR4Eo>

This had been a most interesting and varied evening, much enjoyed by everyone. Those present in the Hall were treated to refreshments, kindly made for us by Avryl Lloyd, with Welsh cakes made by ML. Many thanks to both of them.

ML reminded us that there would be no meeting in December. In January we have a talk by Stewart Roberts and in February Cherry Williams will give another of her fascinating local insights.

Many thanks, as always, to ML for organising such an interesting evening for us. Special thanks go to John Price who, once again, made it possible for us to hold a successful hybrid meeting and for making sure that the film clips were visible to both audiences.